

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00539 061430Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
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R 060600Z JUL 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 566
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS RIYADH 539

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USDA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EPAP, SA
SUBJECT: BEEF EXPORT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF A) DHAHRAN 0600 B) JIDDA 4585

1. USLO RIYADH COMMERCIAL OFFICER VISITED MR. IBRAHIM KHOJA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, SAG TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF BEEF IMPORTS INTO THE KINGDOM. MR. KHOJA STATED THAT A LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO USDA CONCERNING SAG REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATIONS OF ISLAMIC SLAUGHTER, AVERAGE AGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR A PARTICULAR SHIPMENT ON A GIVEN DATE, HEALTH OF ANIMALS INSPECTIONS ETC. THIS ALL HAS BEEN REPORTED BEFORE AND NEED NOT BE REITERATED.

2. HOWEVER, MR. KHOJA MADE TWO STATEMENTS WHICH ARE OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO EXPORTERS:

A. ONLY MEAT FOR WHICH A SUBSIDY IS DESIRED MUST BE IMPORTED IN UNCUT FORM E.E. QUARTERS OR WHOLE CARCASS. THIS IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE SUBSIDY CAN BE CALCULATED BY SAG.

NOTE: THE BEEF AND POULTRY SUBSIDIES HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED.

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B. PRECUT AND PREPACKAGED FROZEN MEAT IS NOT RESTRICTED FROM IMPORT. THE MEAT SHOULD BE PACKAGED USING BILINGUAL LABELS INDICATING ISLAMIC SLAUGHTER WAS USED, WEIGHT, EXPIRATION DATE AND CHEMICALS USED, IF ANY. ALL OTHER CERTIFICATIONS MUST ALSO ACCOMPANY THE SHIPMENT.

3. FOR DHAHRAN: PLEASE INFORM DR. BANYAN OF SOUKS CO., LTD.

OF THE ABOVE.

4. FOR USDA: IT APPEARS THAT EARLIER INTERPRETATIONS OF
SAG REGULATIONS HAVE UNDULY CONSTRAINED MEAT EXPORTERS FROM
A LUCRATIVE MARKET FOR PREDUT AND PREPACKAGED MEAT. SUGGEST
THAT THIS BE RECTIFIED SOONEST.
GRANINGER

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